

FAIRFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022

203 256-3170

socialservices@fairfieldct.org



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NEW - Covid Recovery Fund

The Town of Fairfield Social Services Department is now screening applications for this new emergency fund designed to help residents who are still struggling financially because of the pandemic. For more information, including criteria for assistance, required documentation, and a printable copy of the application, go to fairfieldct.org/covidrecoveryfund, or call the town's social services department directly at 203-256-3170.

CONTINUING RESOURCES

Rental & Utility Assistance - UniteCT

Tenants and property owners may be eligible for up to \$15,000 towards overdue rent and \$1500 towards utility payments through UniteCT. Apply online at www.bit.ly/UniteCT, or call 1-844-864-8328 for assistance.

If you're having trouble with the application process, assistance is available through The WorkPlace at 203-610-8500 or BNT (Building Neighborhoods Together) at 203-290-4255.

Mortgage & Rental Assistance – Operation Hope

Contact Brenda Lobdell, Housing Coordinator at 203-292-5588, ext. 218.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

This new program is a longer term replacement for the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) described in previous newsletters. Enrollment is now open for eligible households (for example, residents who receive SNAP, SSI, Medicaid, or those who participate in the free and reduced-price school lunch program or breakfast program).

ACP provides a discount of up to \$30/month towards internet service. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, a desk top computer, or a tablet from participating providers. If you are enrolled in EBB as of December 31, 2021, benefits will continue until March 1, 2022. For application questions, email ACPSupport@usac.org or call 877-384-2575

TAX HELP & INFORMATION

Advance Child Tax Credit Payments

If you have minor children living with you, and have received monthly advance tax credit payments from the IRS between July – December 2021, you may claim the remaining child tax credit when you file your 2021 federal tax return. You should be receiving a letter from the IRS officially known as Letter 6475. Hold onto this as it will provide information that will be helpful in preparing your 2021 taxes and claiming this credit.

Plus-Up Payments from the IRS – you may be eligible for additional payments if you received a 3rd Economic Impact Payment from the IRS based on a 2019 tax return or information from the IRS, the VA, or RRB. You may also be eligible for a larger amount based on your 2020 tax return. **To determine eligibility and the status of your Plus-Up Payment, check the “Get My Payment” tool on the IRS website:** irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Free tax preparation services are available to individuals and families earning less than \$56,000 per year, as well as persons with disabilities, seniors, and limited English speaking taxpayers. IRS-trained volunteers are certified to prepare simple tax returns and screen for special tax credits such as the Advance Child Tax Credit, referenced above, or the Earned Income Tax Credit.

VITA volunteers are conveniently posted at The Fairfield Public Library, 1080 Old Post Rd., from January 25th until April 12th, 9:30-am – 4:00pm; no appointments required.

Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Program

The filing period for eligible Fairfield residents begins February 1 and ends May 13, 2022. For income guidelines and information about how to apply, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 203-256-3110, or check online at fairfieldct.org/taxrelief

MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Grief Support Group – Fridays (March 4 through April 8)

This group is intended for those who are processing the death of a loved one within the past year. It will be a “closed” group that meets for 6 weeks, meaning that group size will be limited and participants are expected to attend all 6 sessions. If interested, please contact Malinda Johnson at 203-256-3170.

Safe Return Network

If a family member is prone to “wandering” or getting lost, consider registering for a new program developed to assist emergency personnel in locating them. To register go to fpdct.com/safereturn; for more information, contact Officer Anthony Krushinsky at akrushinsky@fairfieldct.org or call 203-254-4800.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Eviction Help

For those facing the possibility of eviction, legal services are available at 1-800-453-3320 (toll free).

Also, if you do not know your rights, The Connecticut Fair Housing Center can help. Call 860-247-4400 or 888-247-4401, or explore their website at www.ctfairhousing.org. Pay close attention to the tab labelled “Evictions During Covid-19 Pandemic”. This provides updated information about Governor Lamont’s Executive Order relating to the Eviction Process and UniteCT Program.

***Please call Social Services (203) 256-3170 with any questions
or to schedule an appointment.***